

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/656,942

Examiner

Sow-Fun Hon

Applicant(s)

OKADA ET AL.

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/02/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-6, 15 renumbered 2-4, 1.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 06/21/04.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Melody Wu on 06/21/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. Cancel claim 16.
3. Claim 4: Line 2: Delete "or 16".
4. Claim 5: Line 2: Delete "or 16".
5. The condition for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 was met by the certified translations dated 10/07/03, and invalidates cited prior art references with priority after September 09, 1999. Thus US 6,528,940 is no longer valid prior art.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest valid prior art of record US 6,156,562 fails to teach or suggest an organic electroluminescence device comprising: a pair of oppositely spaced electrodes; a carrier transporting layer and a luminescent organic layer disposed in lamination between the electrodes so that the carrier transporting layer is disposed in contact with one of the electrodes, wherein the carrier transporting layer comprises a conductive liquid crystal having a π -electron resonance structure in its molecule, and the a π -electron resonance structure plane of the conductive liquid crystal in the carrier transporting layer is aligned substantially parallel to surfaces of the electrodes, wherein the conductive liquid

Art Unit: 1772

crystal is a discotic liquid crystal, and wherein the conductive liquid crystal is in a discotic disordered phase or a liquid crystal phase having a lower order than the discotic disordered phase. Unexpected results are shown by Applicant where although a higher mobility is exhibited by a liquid crystal in its discotic ordered phase, a liquid crystal in its discotic disordered phase is shown to exhibit better performance as a carrier transporting layer for an organic electroluminescence device due to its better alignability of its π -electron resonance plane parallel to the electrode surface (specification, page 39, lines 20-30, page 40, line 1).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sow-Fun Hon whose telephone number is (571)272-1492. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached at (571)272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Application/Control Number: 09/656,942

Page 4


Art Unit: 1772

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SH

Sow-Fun Hon

06/24/04


HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1772

6/22/04